



**United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development**

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/COM.3/EM.1/1
25 February 1997

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Expert Meeting on the use of information technologies to make
transit arrangements more effective
Geneva, 5 May 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

1. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Use of information technologies to make transit arrangements more effective
4. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. In accordance with normal practice, the Expert Meeting may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda in section I above has been drawn up by the UNCTAD secretariat. The Expert Meeting will have three working days to complete its business. Normal meeting hours are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The secretariat believes that the objectives of the Meeting would be best served by a spontaneous exchange of views among the experts from all countries in an informal setting, followed by a joint effort to draft conclusions or recommendations on the item under consideration.

3. It would be useful if the substantive deliberations could be completed by the evening of Tuesday, 6 May to allow ample time for preparation of the draft conclusions or recommendations which should be adopted on the afternoon of Wednesday, 7 May.

Item 3 - Use of information technologies to make transit arrangements more effective

4. Transit issues have become an area of interest of a large group of countries as regional trade is also increasing in developing countries. Accordingly, the need to improve the functioning of transit systems is a matter of increasing concern for all countries. Transit transport covers a wide range of issues related to physical infrastructure and non-physical barriers which may inhibit efficient transit operations. While recognizing their importance, the Expert Meeting will deal with the specific issues of information systems and technologies.

5. The Expert Meeting will have before it for consideration document by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Use of information technologies to make transit arrangements more effective" TD/B/COM.3/EM.1/3. This document introduces some of the available information systems and technologies and analyses their potential impact on the improvement of transit systems. These techniques are of critical importance to improving the effectiveness of transit arrangements. If exploited, opportunities to apply advanced technologies should generate increased systems reliability and consequently renew the credibility of existing transit arrangements and facilitate new ones. The Meeting is called upon to assess the adequacy of the proposed information systems and technologies. On the basis of this assessment, the Meeting might wish to make recommendations on the application and immediate use of systems and appropriate technologies and on the modalities thereof. Recommendations should be addressed to all parties involved in the endeavours to improve transit systems, including governments, administrations, transit transport operators and the UNCTAD secretariat.

Item 4 - Adoption of the report of the Meeting

6. The Expert Meeting will adopt its findings/conclusions/recommendations at the end of the Meeting. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairman after the conclusion of the Meeting.